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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
SERIAL NO. 10/086,584

JAN 13 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I, David Andrechuk, hereby certify that on January 13, 2006, the following papers (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed or actually enclosed) are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300.


Signature of Person Certifying

In re Application of: Ward, et al.
Serial No.: 10/086,584
Filing Date: February 28, 2002
Group Art Unit: 3727
Examiner: Mai, Tri M.
For: *Apparatus and Method for
Protecting and Wiping a Surface*

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
FILED WITH RCE ON JANUARY 13, 2006

Sir:

Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on November 18, 2005, and have two months to timely file an Appeal Brief or a Request for Continued Examination. As such, Applicants timely submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination of this Application.

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On September 19, 2005, Applicants timely filed an Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed May 18, 2005, after believing that such Office Action erroneously indicated it to include a final rejection. Applicants received an Advisory Action mailed October 11, 2005 from the Examiner indicating that the May 18, 2005 Office Action was a final rejection. Applicants also received a Summary of Record of Interview mailed November 2, 2005, indicating that the Office Action of May 18, 2005 was, upon further consideration, a final rejection. Thus, the arguments and amended claims submitted by Applicants on September 19, 2005 were never considered by the Examiner.

As such, Applicants submit that this Amendment and Response is timely filed and respectfully request entry of all amendments set forth herein and consideration of the remarks provided below.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 3, **Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 4, the **Remarks** begin on page 8, and the **Conclusion** begins on page 12 of this paper.